

FECN11 CWIS 181800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR DECEMBER ISSUED
JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE
U.S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 18 DECEMBER 2003.

Lake Superior

Above normal temperatures were reported during the last two weeks over the western portion of Lake Superior while near normal temperatures prevailed for the eastern portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the first half of the third week of December with near to slightly below normal temperatures for the remainder of the month. New lake ice will develop in eastern Nipigon Bay by the end of the third week of December. Some new lake ice will begin to form in western and northern Thunder Bay and continue to expand southward in Black Bay to cover the entire bay by the end of the third week. Ice in Nipigon and Black Bays will reach medium and thick lake ice and become mostly consolidated by the end of the year. A narrow band of new lake ice will form along the coast of Lake Superior from Thunder Bay northwards to the entrance to Nipigon Bay by the end of the year. New lake ice will begin to form around the Apostle Islands as well as the coastal area of Whitefish Bay near the end of the third week and continue to thicken and expand into the final week of December. Elsewhere generally open water to ice free conditions will prevail.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Below normal temperatures will cover the lake during the first week of January with near to slightly above normal for the second week. As a result moderate ice growth is expected over the period. The ice in Thunder Bay will thicken to thin and medium lake ice and expand to cover most of the bay by the end of the first week of January. The ice along the northwestern coast of Lake Superior just south of Thunder Bay northward to the entrance to Nipigon Bay will continue to expand southeastward towards but not quite reaching Isle Royale by the end of second week of January. New and thin lake ice will form along the southern shore especially from Duluth to Keweenaw Bay during the second week of January. Ice around the Apostle Islands will become consolidated while most of Whitefish Bay will be covered with thin and medium lake ice by the end of the second week of January. Some new lake ice will begin to form in Michipicoten Bay by mid-January. The rest of the lake will be open water to ice free.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Near to slightly below normal temperatures were reported during the first two weeks of December over the forecast area. Some new and thin lake ice formed in the Ste Mary's River, extreme northwestern Lake Huron, Saginaw Bay and the northeastern coastal area of Georgian Bay.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the third week of December with near to slightly below normal for the last week. New ice will begin to grow during the third week of December along the northern shore of the North Channel. By the end of the month, most of the channel will be covered in thin and new lake ice with some medium lake ice. All of the Ste. Mary's River will be covered with thin and medium lake ice with some sections becoming consolidated by the end of December. At the same time, ice in the northwestern portion of Lake Huron will continue to expand slowly and thicken to thin and medium lake ice near the Straits of Mackinac. Most of Saginaw Bay will be covered in medium lake ice with looser ice conditions in the northern portion of the bay. Elsewhere along the Lake Huron shore, some patches of new lake ice will form during the last week of December. Continued expansion of lake ice will occur along the northeastern shore of Georgian Bay to reach thin and medium lake ice just before the New Year. Elsewhere, conditions will be mostly open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the first half of January. As a result moderate ice growth is expected. The eastern and western portion of the North Channel will be consolidated at the end of the first week of January and will become almost entirely consolidated by the middle of January. Only the south-central portion of the channel will have mobile ice. The coastal area of Saginaw Bay will become consolidated during the first week of January and will be completely consolidated by the middle of the month. Ice growth along the Lake Huron coast will be more generalised by the middle of the month with mostly thin lake ice. Ice along northeastern Georgian Bay coast will continue to expand towards the middle of the bay with some new lake ice beginning to form elsewhere along the coastal area of the bay during the second week of January. Elsewhere mainly open water.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures over the last two weeks were near to below normal. Open water conditions were prevalent over the entire area except portions of Lake St Clair and Long Point Bay where some new lake ice was present.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st.

Near to below normal temperatures are forecast for the third week of December and near to above normal temperatures for the last week of December. Continued new ice growth will occur in Lake St. Clair during the third week and will become mostly covered with new and thin lake ice by the end of the year. Some isolated areas of new lake ice will begin to form along the coastal area of the Western Basin during the third week and will cover almost the entire basin by the end of December. During the third week of the month new with some thin lake ice will form in Long Point and Sandusky Bays. The remainder of the lake will be mostly open water with some patches of new ice forming in eastern Lake Erie.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the first half of January. Ice in Lake St Clair will thicken to mostly medium lake ice during the first week of January with areas of consolidated ice forming along the eastern and northern portion of the lake by the middle of the month. The Western Basin will be completely covered with thin lake ice during the first week and thicken to medium lake ice by mid-month. Elsewhere in Lake Erie new and thin lake ice will begin to form along the coast by the end of the first week of January. Ice growth and expansion will continue during the second week with the bulk of the expansion occurring over the northern portion of the lake with the thicker medium lake ice located in the eastern portion of the lake. Elsewhere, mostly open water conditions will prevail.

Lake Ontario

Near to below normal temperatures were observed during the first two weeks of December. No significant ice was present except for some patches of new lake ice in the Bay of Quinte.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st.

Slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the third week of December with near to above normal temperatures for the last week of December. Mainly Open water and ice free conditions will prevail during the second half of December except for some new lake ice forming during the third week of December in the Bay of Quinte area. Isolated areas of new ice will form in the small bays in eastern Lake Ontario.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the first two weeks of January. Continued new and thin lake ice growth will occur in the Bay of Quinte. By the middle of the month, the ice will become consolidated in the Bay of Quinte. New and thin lake ice will form in the eastern portion of the lake by the middle of the month. Otherwise open water to ice free will prevail.

Lake Michigan

Above normal temperatures were observed over the entire area during the month of November. Open water to ice free covered most regions except for consolidated ice in northern Little and Big Bay the Noc as well as southern Green Bay.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st.

Below to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the third week of December with near to above normal temperatures for the last week of December. Ice growth and expansion will continue in the Green Bay area and reach thicknesses of thin and medium lake ice by the end of the month. Elsewhere open water and ice free conditions will prevail except for some new lake ice along the northern coast of Lake Michigan just west of the Straits of Mackinac.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Below normal temperatures are expected during the period. Consolidated areas of ice will expand northward from southern Green Bay and cover the southern half of the bay by mid-month. The areas of consolidated fast ice in Little and Big Bay de Noc will also expand southward although at a lesser extent. Narrow areas of thin and new lake ice will form mostly along the western shore of the lake during the second week of January. Patches of new and thin lake ice will form along the eastern shore of the lake during near the middle of the month. The northern portion of the lake west of the Straits of Mackinac and northeast of Beaver Island will be covered in thin and new ice with some medium lake ice. Elsewhere mostly open water to ice free.

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 01 January, 2004.

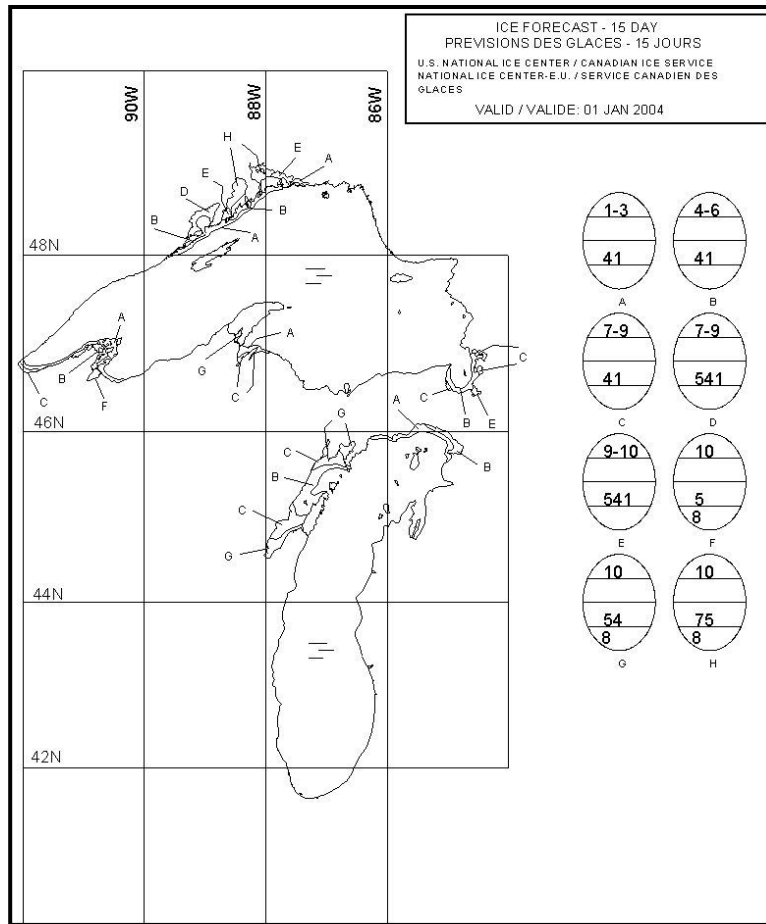


Figure 2: Ice Forecast, Western Great Lakes– 15 January, 2004.

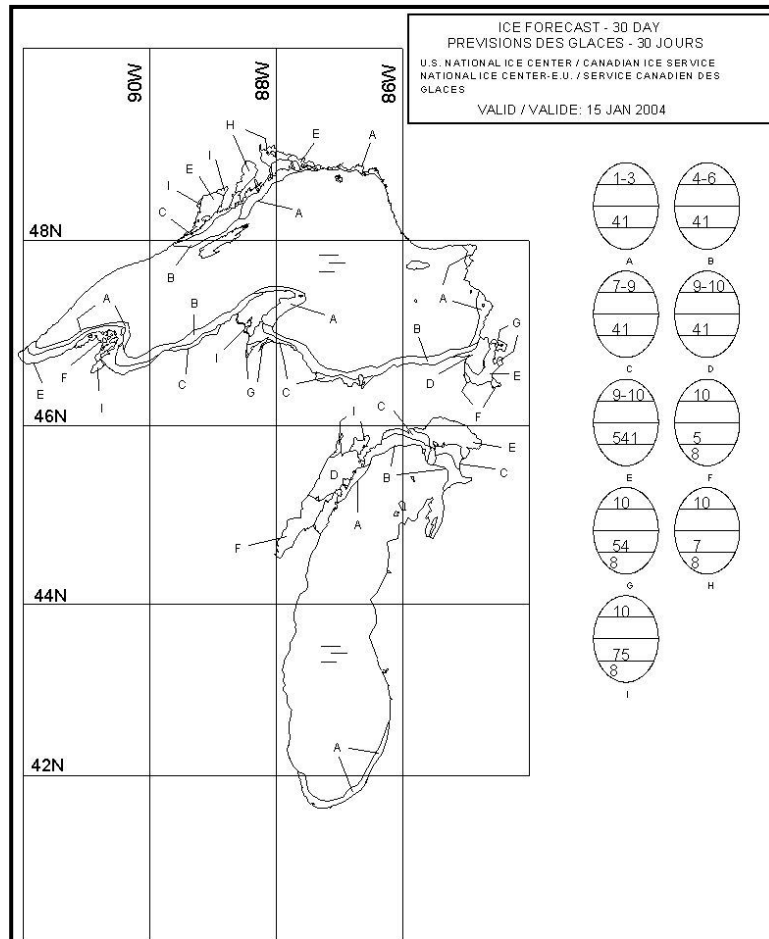


Figure 3: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 01 January, 2004.

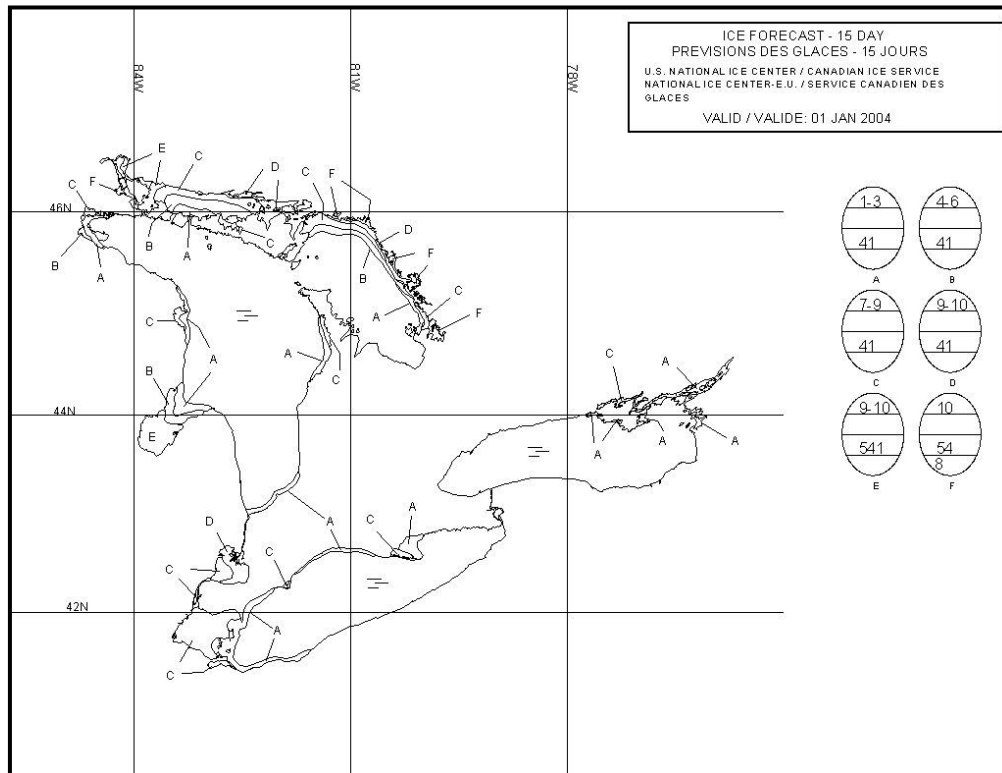
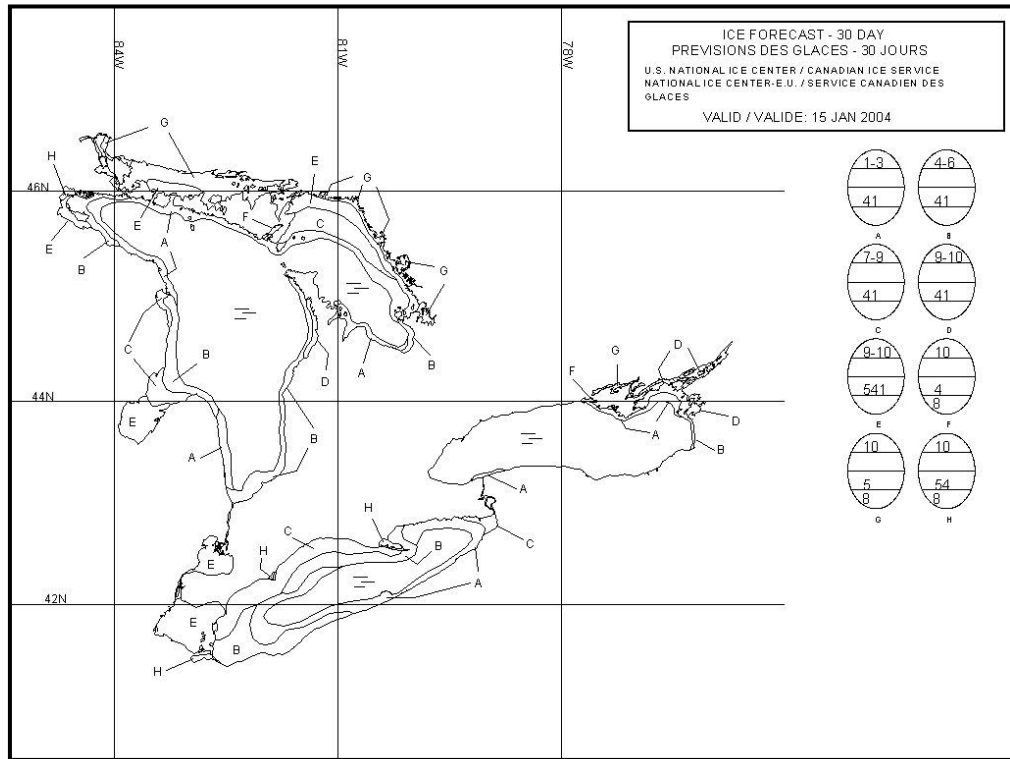


Figure 4: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 January, 2004



THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 06 JANUARY 2004.
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